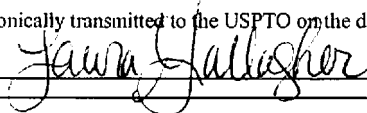


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: October 24, 2007

Signature: _____



(Laura Shires Gallagher)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/824,936
Confirmation No.: 7289
Filing Date: April 14, 2004
Inventor(s): Vahid SAADAT et al.
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBTAINING ENDOLUMINAL ACCESS
Examiner: M. Kasztejna
Group Art Unit: 3739

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
AND
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed June 15, 2007. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a two-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to November 15, 2007. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Also filed herewith is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.